

DfE progress review meeting

Bracknell Forest Written Statement of Action

January 2023



General update

October 2022 to January 2023

- Phase 2 SEND restructure and consultation complete, recruitment underway for new roles
- A DSCO has been successfully recruited
- Engagement with the DBV programme has resulted in an application for 3 projects to improve support for CYP with ASD and to support transition from primary to secondary, with funding successfully secured
- The draft SEND strategy is now in consultation period
- There has been a reduction in the number of complaints
- Frimley ICB's CYP strategy has been published
- There has been a significant reduction in OT waiting times



Progress update – area 1

Lack of a clear, co-produced strategy for how the much needed improvements and change will be brought about



Progress to date

- A series of online and face to face events were held with the PCF, young people with SEND, health professionals, education settings and Bracknell Forest staff using a variety of mechanisms including **facilitated conversations, focus groups and online surveys**. The objective was to explore the issues and priorities for children and young people with SEND, consider the purpose of a strategy and how to make this accessible and meaningful.
- The range of views were analysed and used to develop a draft strategy for SEND from 2023 to 2025
- **Consultation** on the draft strategy started in January; feedback has been sought from as wide an audience as possible using a variety of mechanisms including a series of events and discussions groups

Next steps

- The SEND Strategy will go through the appropriate governance process, currently aiming for Executive Committee on 20 June 2023, post-election
- A review process will be developed and documented

Progress update – area 2



Parents' and carers' lack of confidence in the education, healthcare and social opportunities for children and young people with SEND, alongside their frustration at the poor communication they experience from the SEND team

Progress to date

- Consultation for Phase 2 of the SEND restructure is complete, with interviews taking place throughout February for all posts
- In response to the Communication and Co-production Charter, a communications and co-production working group was established in November 2022, meeting bi-weekly focussing on topics including improvements to the Local Offer website
- A suite of standard letters (20) have been co-produced with input from the Bracknell Forest SEND team and managers, legal services and the PCF.
- Process have been improved to incorporate the voice and input of children, parents and stakeholders
- A co-produced SEND customer journey infographic has been produced

Next steps

- Secure all post holders for restructure in place by June 23
- Progressing the East Berkshire Integrated Therapies Project and joint development of the updated service specification
- Continue to gather intelligence to shape the design and redevelopment of a new BFC Local Offer website to ensure it is as accessible and user friendly as possible.

Progress update – area 3

Lack of co-production with children and young people with SEND and their families, and with professionals. This includes limited parental representation at strategic level



Progress to date

- Initial scoping meeting has been held in January 2023 to explore how best to develop a sustainable and meaningful youth forum
- Two RISE workshops have been held with a range of partners including parents, local authority and health colleagues to strengthen co-production
- A Communication Working Group (set up post SEND Co-production and Communication Charter approval) has been established.

Next steps

- Appointment of the Engagement and PfA officers will support engagement with children and young people to understand their views and aspirations for a SEND young forum
- A third RISE workshop will take place on 1 March 2023
- Audit of new EHC process to take place in March 2023

Progress update – area 4

Lack of appropriate educational provision for a significant proportion of children and young people with SEND in the borough



Progress to date

- Full engagement with modules 1, 2 and 3 of the DfE's Better Value in SEND programme, resulting in a formal bid submitted 23 Jan for a £1million grant to support 3 new projects, which has been successful
- Work is underway to identify appropriate sites, accommodation and host schools for a secondary SRP
- Applications have been submitted to build an SEMH Special School and an ASD Special School; decisions will be known in financial year 2023-24

Next steps

- Kennel Lane Special School, awaiting result of DfE survey in Oct 2022 to inform next stage development
- All Saints vacant site: Feasibility study due end of October 2022 will inform next stage of development for SEND provision
- Secondary SRP: planned opening September 2023
- SEMH Hub: working group to agree scope and timeline for implementation. In early stages

Progress update – area 5

The lack of support available to children and young people while waiting excessive amounts of time to access OT services. Also, the lack of capacity within the OT team, resulting in delays in their contributions to EHC plans



Progress to date

- Reduction of number of children/young people awaiting OT Triage – **reduction to 4** (previously had been 284) the target is to maintain no greater than 25 children/young people are awaiting a triage at any given point.
- Longest wait in OT Triage – **reduction to 4 weeks** (previously had been 46 weeks).
- % of children waiting 53 weeks or more for an OT assessment – **reduction to 13%** (had previously been 50+%).
- BHFT toolkit direct link signposting document developed, shared with PCF, Schools and Educational Psychology Team and live on Local Offer.
- Stakeholder workshop for integrated Therapies Workshop completed.

Next steps

- Focus on improvement of EHC compliance underway.
- Review of health attendance at panel report completed – recommendations include strategy to reduce children entering CYPIT services via EHC route who are previously not known to service.
- Integrated Therapies Steering Group to be hosted fortnightly
- Frimley ICS SEND Steering group goes live on February 22nd, 2022.

Progress update – area 6

The high number of children and young people with SEND who reach a mental health crisis because of a lack of timely support to prevent further escalation



Progress to date

- Mapping of all available services that provide emotional health and wellbeing early mental health support is complete, forming the basis of a system wide service.
- A robust quality assurance process is in place and embedded into BAU processes
- An agreed training offer is in place to provide regular training within community settings around mental health. A deep dive has been undertaken into several mental health crisis cases to consider early flags, to increase understanding of early identifiers, to develop services to support early intervention, and avoid missed opportunities.

Next steps

- A comprehensive review of the BHFT CAMHS service is now underway and there are 6 areas of service provision which will be reviewed as part of this BHFT Transformation.

Progress update – area 7

The lack of established, effective panel arrangements to decide next steps in the graduated approach used for pupils who receive SEND support



Progress to date

- First Task and Finish group in relation to the graduated approach met on 9 Jan to introduce and discuss the proposed schedule of review activity
- A successful grant application was made to the National Development Team for Inclusion (NDTi) to establish a Supported Internship Forum in Bracknell Forest
- A presentation was delivered to the local Economic Skills and Development Partnership on 19 January to raise awareness of the NDTi Supported Internships programme

Next steps

- The task and finish groups will be analysing resources, documentation, panels and processes against an agreed matrix and evaluating against best practice.
- They will provide short term and long-term recommendations following the analysis to inform the creation of new graduated approach support standards.

Progress update – area 8

Insufficient long-term planning for young people as they move into adulthood



Progress to date

- The Post 16 working party has considered the transition protocol and the new social care Approaching Adulthood policies to ensure that local authority processes for PfA are aligned. Similar work to link with the Elevate team NEET projects and the new LA transport policy have also been carried out
- The updated Approaching Adulthood Policy has been drafted

Next steps

- The updated Approaching Adulthood Policy will be presented at DMT on 21/2/23 for sign off
- To produce a guide (manuals /pamphlets) to improve on information accessibility.

Progress update – area 9



Parents' and carers' lack of awareness of available advice, support or social care provision. The lack of age-appropriate social opportunities for older children and young people with SEND

Progress to date

- Local Offer website initial review and feedback sessions have taken place with Bracknell and Wokingham College, parents and carers along with a survey to gather evidence of user requirements
- A Designated Social Care Officer has been successfully recruited
- Interviews for the new PfA Officer are scheduled for 22 February

Next steps

- A LO co-production focus group will be formed to help shape the design and redevelopment of the new BFC Local Offer website to ensure it is accessible and user friendly
- The PfA Officer will lead on the audit of the current employment pathways support